

CAMINADA

LOCATION: Boundaries of this unit include Louisiana Highway 1 on the north, the Jefferson Parish line to the east, Highway 3090 and Pass Fourchon to the west, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south.

SOILS: Mainly organic layers of peat of varying thicknesses underlain by soft dispersed saline clays and mucky clays. when flooded, some organic layers separate from the clay substrate and float. Some silts and sands are found on old beach ridges that parallel the coast from the current shore ridge to the boundary of the management unit.

VEGETATION: Salt marsh covers most the area. Along the fossil beach ridges, woody bottomland hardwood vegetation occurs including live oaks. Immediately behind the coastline small patches of black mangrove occur. Some dunal vegetation exists on the current beach ridge along the Gulf.

SUBSIDENCE POTENTIAL IF DRAINED: High in the southern half of the study unit area. Very High in the northern half of the area. The exceptions to this are the fossil beach ridges which have little or no subsidence.

LAND LOSS POTENTIAL IF DRAINED:

A. Shoreline Retreat: The average shoreline retreat along the Lafourche Parish Gulf Coast is about 62.0 feet per year. The loss of land along the coast of Louisiana may be tied to two factors - first, the Mississippi River is not building any new land to replace that lost through wave action and storm erosion. Secondly, the entire Gulf Coast is geologically subsiding. Dredging activities hasten both of these two factors.

B. Land Loss Due to Channel Construction: High due to the nature of the soils in the area.

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES: The area is mainly salt marsh, with lone narrow lakes trending northeast - southwest. Between these lakes lie the relict beach ridges, many of which have trees on them. Elevations on these ridges approach plus five (5) feet MSL. Other than these ridges the only high ground exists as the embankment for Highway 1 on the north border of this study unit and a few lone spoil bank areas along canals.

FLOODING POTENTIAL: The entire area is flood prone.

IMPORTANT FARMLANDS: None

USE OF LAND: The area has been somewhat altered by the construction of Louisiana 1 and at least two pipeline canals. Sand is excavated along the ridges and from pits in swale areas for use in highway construction. Excavation pits have been developed for fishing. Louisiana Highway 1, which crosses the unit Provides the only road link to Grand Isle for

transportation and evacuation. Some fishing camps are found along the chenier near Grand Chenier.

UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES:

1. Geologic Features:

1. Coastal beach ridges
2. Chenier Caminada Beach Ridges. This is a series of ridges running parallel to the coast and vegetated by oaks and other smaller shrubs, representing ancient coastlines of the Gulf. These are unique geological features that act as storm buffers and resting areas for migratory birds. Recommended by Murk and Associates (1977a) as a "Potential Preservation and Restoration Area".

B. Botanical Features:

1. Black mangrove area

C. Zoological Features: The area serves as an important resting spot for birds migrating across the Gulf of Mexico.

RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: Wisner Wildlife Management Area covers part of the western end of the study unit. Hunting and fishing occur off of Louisiana 1 or in adjacent marshes. Boat ramps provide access to both marshes and the Gulf. The Elmer's Island road is the only road access to the Gulf. The road and island are private property requiring tolls for entrance.

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES: Little or no freshwater, save occasional lenses of freshwater floating on saltwater.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL:

A. Historic Sites. Caminada Chenier

B. Cultural Sites: None

C. Archeological Sites:

LF 10 Known Shell midden Caminada Chenier ---- Shell midden on Bayou Thoreau

GOALS

1. Reduce shoreline erosion rate
2. Protect chenier ridges from degradation by:

- A. Channelization through ridges,
- B. Lining of sand,
- C. Clearing of forest

- 3. Preserve the integrity of the swale areas between ridges from further channelization
- 4. Control all development in EMU due to fragility of environment and flood danger from storms
- 5. Promote recreational access to swale lakes along Louisiana Highway 1

POLICIES FOR CAMINADA

This EMU contains a unique series of relicts of beach ridges that roughly parallels the coast. Extensive deposits of sand on the ridges as well as between them provide source materials for the existing beach and the nearby barrier island complexes as the shoreline erodes inland. The high chenier ridges support some forest and provide habitat for many species of animals, especially birds migrating across the Gulf of Mexico. The ridges themselves serve as barriers to storms, waves, and tidal surges. This area is unique and valuable to the parish as a buffer against erosion. It is under consideration as a possible "particular area" in the local CZM Plan.

POLICY 1. All General Policies for the Lafourche Coastal Zone shall apply in this EMU unless modified by specific EMU or sub EMU policies stated in this EMU policy statement.

POLICY 2. Open pit mining for sand for various uses within this EMU currently occurs in the swale area between ridges near Louisiana Highway 1. These mines should only be continued to meet existing demands. No new permits for commercial sand dredging or mining should be issued anywhere in this EMU.

POLICY 3. Chenier ridges will not be leveled or mined for any purpose whatsoever.

POLICY 4. The forested ridges shall not be disturbed to the maximum extent practicable. If this vegetation is destroyed for any necessary permitted activity, it shall be replaced.

POLICY 5. New pipeline crossings of chenier ridges should be discouraged. If it can be demonstrated by the permit applicant that there is no feasible alternative to crossing chenier ridge, then the permit should require that the ridge be graded up to its former elevation and revegetated after the Pipeline crossing is completed.

POLICY 6. Permanent human habitation dwellings should be discouraged throughout this EMU due to severe flooding potential from storms, and lack of adequate water and sewerage facilities. Any permits associated with recreational or any other type of permanent dwellings shall require adequate on site sewerage and proof of compliance with solid waste disposal and collection regulations of Lafourche Parish.

POLICY 7. There shall be no illegal dumping in this EMU Existing dumps shall be closed or phased out as approved landfills become available in other areas.

POLICY 8. Recreational boat launches and public facilities should be developed along Louisiana Highway 1 to provide recreational access to swale lakes and sand borrow lakes in the area.

POLICY 9. The construction of board roads, aggregate or hard surface roads connecting Highway 1 with the cheniers shall be discouraged. If built, however, they shall meet General Policy Guidelines established for the Lafourche Coastal Zone.

POLICY 10. No channels should be cut through cheniers for any purpose.

POLICY 11. Channels dredged for any purpose should be plugged after activities have ceased, as per the General Policies of the Lafourche Coastal Zone and spoil spread so as to mitigate the marsh destruction caused by the channels. Revegetation of spoil may be required subject to individual circumstances.

POLICY 12. Channels through the barrier beach into the swale wetlands shall be discouraged. If it is deemed necessary to breach the barrier beach with a channel, the channel shall be sealed after activity completion and the beach restored and revegetated to its original condition as much as possible.

POLICY 13. Existing channels and lakes should be used to access oil and gas exploration sites as much as possible to avoid cutting any channels through the barrier beach.

POLICY 14. Black mangrove areas should be protected from destruction from any permitted activities. These plants help stabilize the areas immediately behind the coastal beach ridge and are important in the retardation of erosion. No pipelines or channels should traverse these areas, unless the area is refilled and vegetation is restored after the activity is completed.

Besides these guidelines, all coastal use guidelines as stated in the F.E.I.S. of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program shall apply to this EMU

Where EMU policies refer to a "use of state concern", the policies are intended only as recommendations to the state program managers and are not legally binding on the permit applicant or the state CZAR program